



## **Commonwealth of Kentucky Office of the Governor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Lt. Gov. Luallen Honors Public Employees** *Public Service Recognition Week in Kentucky is Oct. 4-10*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 5, 2015)** – Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen and Personnel Cabinet Secretary Dinah Bevington praised the work and dedication of Kentucky's public employees today at a ceremony in the Capitol. The event celebrated Public Service Recognition Week, which is Oct. 4-10.

"From protecting our communities, ensuring the safety of our drinking water, supporting economic development and encouraging tourism, to improving the health of our citizens, we recognize the many ways in which government serves the people and how public employees make life better for all of us," said Lt. Gov. Luallen. "I know the hard work performed by our public employees, and the dedication they have shown during the Great Recession and its effect on the state budget has been tremendous. Our state workers are a priority, which is why we have been committed to increasing compensation as funds are available, and making sure their pensions are secure."

A national celebration that began in 1985, Public Service Recognition Week is set aside to honor the men and women who serve as federal, state, county and local government employees.

Activities and events that recognize public employees are planned throughout the week, including the Governor's Ambassador Awards ceremony, planned for Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Frankfort Convention Center. This annual event showcases state employees who positively impact the lives of others. Awards are presented in the areas of customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork, and community service and volunteerism.

Students throughout the state have also shown their appreciation to public employees by participating in the annual Public Service Recognition Week poster contest. More than

1,900 posters, created around the theme “Great people doing great jobs,” were submitted. Winners were announced as part of the recognition ceremony.

The 2015 winners are:

**Age group: 6-9**

**Honorable mentions**

Keeton Scott Turner, Joe Harrison Carter Elementary School, Tompkinsville  
Griffin McElmurray, Hearn Elementary School, Frankfort

**Winner**

Paige Rakestraw, Dixon Elementary School, Slaughters

**Age group: 10-13**

**Honorable mentions**

Kelsie Jaden Evans, Menifee County Elementary School, Frenchburg  
Rasia Graves, James T. Alton Middle School, Vine Grove

**Winner**

Mary Kate Rakestraw, Dixon Elementary School, Slaughters

**Age group: 14-18**

**Honorable mentions**

Shelby White, Washington County High School, Springfield  
Sophie Cozzolino, North Bullitt High School, Shepherdsville

**Winner**

Shaunda Akemon, Holmes High School, Covington

“School students throughout the state are learning about civic responsibility and public service, and have shown appreciation to public employees by participating in the annual poster contest,” said Secretary Bevington, whose agency leads the week’s activities. “We invite all Kentuckians to join us in saying thank you for the care, dedication and hard work our public servants deliver.”

Visit the Personnel Cabinet’s website at <https://personnel.ky.gov/pages/rewards.aspx> to view the artwork of the poster contest winners and for additional information on Public Service Recognition Week.

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*Lt. Gov. Luallen’s press releases are available on her official website at [ltgovernor.ky.gov](http://ltgovernor.ky.gov).*